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figures so conspicuously in the British-Venezuelan dispute was at one time a resident of that city and later of Richmond, Va. He came to Boston from Germany in 1822 at the age of eighteen, and was employed several years as clerk in a shipping house. He afterwards drifted to Richmond and became a partner in a tobacco factory. The destruction of the factory by fire in 1828 had remote international consequences, for it set Schomburgk adrift again, and he drifted to South America, where he succeeded in gaining the favor of the British authorities, and was finally employed to run the line which is now the basis of the British claim against Venezuela. This service won him his title. But for the burning of the Richmond tobacco factory in 1828 "Sir" Robert might have lived and died an American citizen, and his ghost would not now be figuring in an international controversy.

A LAMENTABLE MISFIT.

Unaccountable as are some of the President's recent acts, the statement of a Washington correspondent that he will send to Congress another panicky message before he closes the bond contract is simply incredible. The fact that he issued the first message while he was yet negotiating for a second loan, and that it was quite well known when the House passed a 3-per-cent. bond bill that he had ignored that body by preparing for another large 4-per-cent. loan, proves that he proposes to ride rough-shod over Congress if it will not do his bidding. When the last Congress met a majority of both branches would have supported him in any fair measure. The House, many Democrats voting against their judgments and the protests of constituents, passed Mr. Cleveland's tariff bill. It was an infinitely worse measure than the present law, and instead of an annual deficit of \$10,000,000 there would have been one of \$100,000,000 under the Cleveland House bill. Still, the President insisted that the Senate should pass his bill, making a frivolous opposition because duties were retained on coal and iron ores. Not by messages, but by one or two most remarkable letters, he assailed the majority of his party in the Senate, and finally permitted the tariff bill, for which nearly every Democrat in both branches voted, to become law without his signature. By his demagogic policy and by offending party men who called upon him Mr. Cleveland destroyed his influence in the Senate and exercised little in the House during the last session.

He has begun the same way with the present House. There is no policy but his which can be tolerated. If Congress does not issue bonds to retire the greenbacks, as he so offensively directs, he will ignore that body and make it utterly useless to pass a 3-per-cent. bond bill by issuing twice as many 4-per-cent. bonds as are necessary in any event, unless he intends to continue to make good the treasury deficit in that manner. There are those who believe that he will not veto the House revenue bill should it become law, but those who have watched the President and fully realize his headstrong and vindictive nature do not yet indulge such a hope.

But the point which is fairly made against the President now is that he has defeated a bill which has passed one branch and is yet before the other by injecting a contract for the issue of bonds which would make the long-time 3-per-cent. bond feature of the bill of no account, and render quite unnecessary, through the process of the "endless chain," that portion of the bill designed to afford the treasury prompt relief by the issue of short-time treasury certificates. The misfortune of the President is that there is in his make-up no conciliation, no spirit of concession and no recognition of the possibility of merit in any other plan except his own. He would be admirable as a ruler of Russia, and more impressive than the young Emperor of Germany if he were in the place of that scion of divine right. But he has no place in any form of government where the one-man rule is not admitted, since, when he cannot have his way, he proceeds to remind the country of a mad bull in a china shop.

THE VENEZUELAN COMMISSION.

The United States Venezuelan commission is likely to assume more international importance than foreign governments, notably the British, were disposed to accord it. The prompt action of Congress in providing for the commission gave weight to the President's recommendation, and the high character of the men appointed will at once command the respect of other governments. The personnel of the commission is all that could be desired, combining in an eminent degree all the qualifications that should pertain to such a body. Its investigation will be the first impartial and by far the most exhaustive one that has ever been made of the matters in dispute between England and Venezuela, and while its report will not be legally binding on either of the disputants nor even conclusive on the United States, it will have great weight in the judgment of the civilized world.

It should not be assumed in advance that the report of the commission will be decidedly against the British claim. That would be begging the question and clothing the commission with prejudice. Its duty will be to "hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may." If it finds that the facts support the British claim it will, of course, so report, though the Journal believes the facts will require a very different report. Whatever it may be, it will command the respect of the American people and probably determine the future action of the government.

SENATOR SHERMAN'S RESOLUTION.

To-day Senator Sherman will speak on his resolution introduced a few days ago. The text of the resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That by injurious legislation by the Fifty-third Congress, the revenues of the government were reduced below its necessary expenditures, and the fund created by law for the redemption of United States notes has been invaded to supply such deficiencies of revenue; that such a misapplication of the redemption fund is of doubtful legality and is greatly injurious to the public credit, and should be prevented by restoring said fund to the sum of not less than \$50,000,000 in gold coin or bullion to be segregated from all other funds; to pay the redemption of the United States notes, and such notes when redeemed to be released only in exchange for gold coin or bullion.

The country regards with interest any financial measure or proposition that comes from Senator Sherman. The important clause in this resolution is the

one which provides that the gold reserve, when once restored to \$100,000,000, shall be "paid out only in the redemption of United States notes and treasury notes, and such notes, when redeemed, to be released only in exchange for gold coin and bullion." Some persons who always misconstrue or misrepresent Senator Sherman on financial questions think they see in this a covert attempt to retire the greenbacks. This is not the case. It is an attempt to restore the gold redemption fund to its original and legitimate use and stop the practice of using it to supply deficits and meet current expenditures. Under this resolution the gold reserve would cease to be available for an illegitimate and dangerous purpose, and treasury notes, once redeemed, instead of being paid out for current expenses, would have to be held by the Secretary of the Treasury until gold was offered in exchange for them. In other words, it would stop the "endless chain," tie Secretary Carlisle's hands against using redeemed greenbacks as revenue and materially reinforce existing measures for maintaining the public credit.

LARGE AND SMALL ESTATES.

The Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics devotes a report just issued to the results of an investigation designed to show whether or not it is true that the rich are growing richer and the poor poorer, as a class of writers and speakers assert. To do this the chief has had recourse to the Probate Court records in the respective counties. These data are important because all estates great or small, must go through the probate courts. To ascertain if large estates are increasing in number and amounts, and if small ones are lessening in number and value, as would be the case if it were true that the rich were becoming richer and the poor poorer, a comparison of estates in several counties passing through the probate courts is made for four periods of two years—1879-81, 1881-83, 1883-85 and 1885-87. The estates valued at over \$500,000 were but two in the first period, six in the second, twenty-nine in the third and thirty in the fourth, indicating that the great increase in number was in the two decades following 1861, there being an increase of but one in the two years ending with 1891. It also appears that the average value of these estates in 1889-91 was \$848,210, and of those in 1879-81 \$1,144,753, but in the last period the average value of the estates fell to \$794,729. Thus it appears that the larger estates have fallen off in their average value since both the preceding periods.

The statistics concerning the smaller estates are also significant. In 1879-81, 3,638 estates went through the probate courts with an average valuation of \$3,919. In 1879-81 the number was 11,142, and the average value was \$12,328; in 1889-91 the number was 14,608, and the average value \$10,649. In these counties the population increased from 610,408 in the first period to 2,238,943 in the last, while the number of estates increased from 3,638 to 14,142, showing that estates have increased more rapidly than population. Of these estates 1,431 were valued at less than \$500 in the first period, with an average value of \$137. The number in the last period was 2,216, with an average value of \$247. The most significant fact about these figures is that between the period 1879-81 and the period 1889-91 the number of estates increased from 11,142 to 14,608, while the value fell from \$12,328 to \$10,649. This means that the smaller estates so rapidly increased in number as to reduce the value thereof.

In summing up, the chief who has collected these statistics comes to the conclusion that in a given thousand of people in Massachusetts to-day there are more persons possessed of moderate and fair sized estates than ever before, and that the average size of these estates is more than double what it was in 1829-31. On the other hand, while there are many more holders of large estates in proportion to the population now than in 1829-31, the average of these large holdings is but little, if any, larger than in the first named period. That is, the rich are not growing richer, but people are acquiring small estates, which refutes the claim of the calamitists.

CONDITION OF WINDOW-GLASS PRODUCTION.

The window glass manufacturers will shut down for a time, it is reported, to prevent bankruptcy overtaking some of them, as would be the case if production were continued unless wages should be reduced to what may be called the starvation point in this country. To continue would fill warehouses with a supply in excess of current demand, and the result would be a depression of prices which would be ruinous to employer and disastrous to employee.

The situation is not what any one could wish. It is unfavorable for those who have capital invested and worse for those whose capital is skilled labor, for whose must be sold every day for the comforts of life or be lost. Both are in the same boat, yet it is worse for the employee than the employer. The situation may bankrupt the one, but it loses the other the opportunity to earn bread. Probably under the improved methods of production more window glass can be manufactured in this country than there is a demand for. Inadequate prices is the result; not the alleged appreciation of gold, as the economists told us last week. But beyond the possible overproduction at home is another evil—the importation of the window glass made by the half-paid labor of Belgium—half paid compared with the wages paid the same labor in this country. If the American market for glass had not been made easier to foreign competitors it is not probable that it would now be so glutted that the factories must be closed.

There has been an expression of criticism in certain quarters because window glass manufacturers have combined to maintain a list of prices which will afford a profit and a fair scale of wages. It is called a "combine"—a trust—and is denounced as a conspiracy to keep up prices. It strikes many people that this is very wicked; but when they consider that glass was never so low and of so good a quality as at the present time, the more they consider the matter in all its bearings the less inclined they will be to regard it as the one appalling iniquity of the last decade of the nineteenth century.

And it may be added that the conditions which apply to the production of window glass apply to other industries which have been affected by foreign com-

petition and low wages. For the maintenance of fair wages some seeming improprieties can be pardoned.

AN UNJUST ATTACK.

The usually fair Louisville Commercial allows itself to be made the vehicle for a very unjust attack on Hon. R. J. Tracewell, Representative in Congress from the Third Indiana District. The pretext for the attack is Mr. Tracewell's absence from Washington when the new tariff and bond bills were passed. After commenting on the importance of the measures and the general desire among Republicans that they should be promptly passed, the Commercial says:

It would naturally be supposed that Mr. Tracewell voted with his party to pass these bills, and it will surprise his constituents to learn that he was evidently unable to form his opinion upon any conclusion. If absent, unless under the demand of some imperative or existing domestic affliction or of some physical disability, his action is wholly without excuse. The measures were the basic upon which depended important results for the country and the party, and every Republican member should have been present and recorded his vote, so as to give to the party action the force of a unanimous vote. Mr. Tracewell has made a serious mistake, which will be hard to explain or rectify. He has publicly stated his ability and disposition to draw his salary with untiring regularity, and he has shown that he exercises the same ability and disposition to earn it by prompt and worthy attention to the discharge of his public duties.

If the writer of this article knew the facts in the case he suppressed them. Mr. Tracewell had left Washington for his home before the President's emergency message was sent in, and when it was expected the usual holiday adjournment would occur. When he was notified of the change of programme he wired Representative Henry asking if his presence was necessary, and that if it was he would return. Mr. Henry, knowing that Mr. Tracewell had important business at home, and that his absence would not endanger the bills, wired back that his presence was not absolutely necessary, and the final vote showed it was not. The insinuation that Mr. Tracewell deserted his post of duty in the presence of a public emergency or that he dodged a vote is so mean and malicious that it seems to argue a personal motive on the part of the writer of the Commercial article. The Republicans of the Third district will hardly thank it for this cowardly attempt to stab their Representative in the back.

The case of F. G. Lenz, the Pittsburgh wheelman who was waylaid and murdered in Turkey some months ago, is likely to be added to the list of unatoned-for outrages against American citizens in that country. An attempt by Lenz's friends to bring his murderers to justice has resulted very similarly to one made by two American citizens to obtain reparation for outrages from the Turkish government while General Lew Wallace was minister to Turkey. In that case the Turkish authorities openly connived at the escape of the perpetrators of the outrage, and, while giving every assurance that justice should be done, secretly exerted themselves to see that it should not be. In the case of Lenz the same assurances have been given, and yet one after another the persons under arrest for his murder have been permitted to escape, until now there is no longer any hope that they will be punished. As likely as not they will be honored and rewarded by the Sultan as other murderers of American citizens have been. The Secretary of State should amend his claim for damages against Turkey by demanding a money indemnity and other reparation for the murder of Lenz, and should accompany the demand with an ultimatum that, if not complied with by a certain time, Constantinople will be bombarded. It is time the long-standing account of unatoned-for outrages against American citizens in Turkey should be settled.

It is said that the committee of the Senate appointed to consider what disposition could be made of convict labor will report, among other things, in favor of the establishment of a reformatory to which will be sent the younger convicts whom it may be possible to save. The details are not given, but it would seem that the two prisons are sufficient, and that one of them might be made a reformatory and the other a penitentiary for the reconvicts.

If the Senators from the silver States are so foolish as to think that they can help their 50-cent dollar project by tacking it upon "even the Ten Commandments," as the inquisitorial Senator Dubois is reported as declaring, they will find when it is too late that they have made a great blunder. That sort of rule by a small minority is a bulldozing method which will set the American people very much against those who undertake it.

She feels in spite of all her joys, But little less than lost. For she has seen the pleasure in detail And knows what seven cost. —Detroit Tribune.

'Tis now, alack! the toothsome chestnut falls, Where Jack Frost has laid his chilling hand; And that, forsooth, a paradox recalls. For on the streets you see the chestnut stands. —Philadelphia Record.

Protection Against the United States.

New York Evening Sun.

A Paris newspaper is forward with the useful suggestion that Europe should combine to protect itself collectively against America. The paper declares that the protection sought is not martial, but industrial. The tariff policy of the United States would be met by a European tariff policy. That is to say, Europe ought to put up its tariff against the United States, which it grows itself, but also of the prime staple, cotton, which it does not grow. There are several matters of detail which the publicist appears to have overlooked. For, first, the exclusion of food-stuffs originating in the United States into Europe, for example, in originating in other countries, at least until existing treaties with their own countries have been revised. Having thus cut off the imports from most of the countries to which Europe now sells goods, the publicist goes on to say that the price of raw material, it would seem, would be a gift to the factories of the United States. The whole, it is to be feared that the publicist of the Paris Temps had better give up. As a qualification for doing so he might profitably spend six weeks as shipping clerk in a third-rate jobber's store, not exactly to make himself master of the world's trade relations, but to learn so much of its alphabet as to be able to distinguish B from a bull's foot.

Gold and Coin Bonds.

Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette.

When you play the game of civilization you must play it on a level of civilization. We should have preferred to see the House of Representatives authorize the issue of gold bonds, instead of the gold coin bonds, which the publicist of the Paris Temps had better give up. As a qualification for doing so he might profitably spend six weeks as shipping clerk in a third-rate jobber's store, not exactly to make himself master of the world's trade relations, but to learn so much of its alphabet as to be able to distinguish B from a bull's foot.

A Look Forward.

New York Mail and Express.

Not the least of the things that 1896 has in store for us is the election of a Republican as occupant of the White House.

Cherokee Indians, occupying a portion of the Indian Territory, joined the Confederacy and raised troops for the Southern army. They were slaveholders. When the war closed, slavery being abolished, the Cherokees agreed with the United States to admit their former slaves to Cherokee citizenship. This they did in a measure, but, later, when the tribe grew poorer and began to receive large annuities from the United States, they ignored the freedmen and restricted the distribution of wealth to Cherokees "by blood." In this state of facts Mr. J. Milton Turner, of St. Louis, somewhat noted as a colored politician and orator, went to Washington, and succeeded in getting enacted into law the Cherokee freedmen bill, to sue in the Court of Claims for their proportionate share of all Cherokee distributions. Next he made a contract with the freedmen themselves, by which he was to have 10 per cent. of any and all sums they might recover in the Court of Claims. Then he employed four good lawyers of St. Louis to prepare and prosecute the claim, agreeing to give the freedmen but of his 10 per cent. The freedmen won the case in the Court of Claims, and the Cherokees have compromised. Net result: Four thousand nine hundred freedmen get \$25 each; Turner gets \$120,000, and the four lawyers will divide two-thirds of that amount. The best feature of the case is that the Indians, who kept the freedmen out of their rights so long, have been compelled at last to do justice.

It is not quite accurate to say that the police made an important arrest when the diamond stealer was captured. He was caught by other men and turned over to the police.

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

Makes Them Talk.

"Timmins says his last note is bound to make people talk."

"I guess so. I fancy they would rather talk than read it."

All Corners.

"Now," said the ex-pugilist, as he opened the doors of his new business house for the first time, "now I am again prepared to meet all comers."

The Way of Her.

She screamed when'er he kissed her— It cannot be denied; She screamed when'er he kissed her— When he did not she cried.

These Days.

Those high resolutions, so fierce and so fiery, Now flicker and pale to the hue of a ghost; Already the keeping of that '96 diary, Is becoming a burden, a bore and a roast.

About People and Things.

It is said that when Queen Victoria and the Empress Eugenie are together they spend their spare time doing needle work for the poor.

There is a Smith family in Ohio with peculiar names. The father is the Rev. Jeremiah Prophet Elijah Smith. His sons are named Most Noble Festus and Sir Walter Scott Bart, and his daughters Joan Fernand and the Countess of Poughkeepsie.

Sarah Orne Jewett lives in an ideally lovely home in Berwick, Me. It is a colonial house, with old mahogany furnishings, huge tiled fire places, old silver, china and glass, and a collection of old books and bric-a-brac. She has a garden full of flowers, and a sea-faring men of long ago used to bring home from foreign lands such treasures as she has.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Jan. 2.—A shipbuilder, declares that in case of war with England the United States could build thirty fully equipped war ships for lake service inside of ten months. In an emergency armored vessels of simple construction could be put together in ninety days. "On the other hand," he added, "Canada could do practically nothing in the way of armored vessels and would be obliged to get along with makeshifts."

Aunt Patsy Richardson, widow of Godfrey Richardson, who served in the Continental army, died at Bethel, Vt., Sunday night, at the age of ninety-four years. She had been failing for the past ten years, and the end came almost peacefully. She was Richardson's second wife. Godfrey Richardson received a pension as a minute man in the Revolutionary war, and was continued to Mrs. Richardson by a special act of Congress. She is the last person holding a Revolutionary pension in the State.

Joshua Flint, who has written a good deal about tramp life for the Century, contributes to the Sun an article on the weavers' mountain village of Goldbach in Germany, where everybody is starving to death. "The weavers," he says, "live on the edge of life; they live in a paradise compared with it. These weavers are not happy, but they are not poor; their condition is a blessing on Germany's reputation, and the only possible hope for them is that the children be not out of the race, in which the parents seem content to die."

Appropos of the centenary recently celebrated at Bethel, a New York light only serves to throw additional light on the domestic relations of Carlyle and his wife. A lady still living in Chelsea, who knew them both well, and who happened to be in the city on the anniversary of his death, says that she remembers his authenticity. During one of her visits to Carlyle and Jane were both in the dining room. Carlyle was rather restless and chafed at his position several times. He was, she said, very nervous and nervous and obeyed, but the irritable man was to be placated, and presently he shouted out again, "Jane, do not breathe a word of the last reprimand to the caller, lest he be made a speedy departure."

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FREE COINAGE BILL

TO BE OFFERED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE HOUSE BOND MEASURE.

Silver Members of the Senate Finance Committee Confer and Decide to Make a Fight for White Metal.

ACTION OF REPUBLICANS

CHANGES TO BE MADE IN BOTH BOND AND REVENUE BILLS.

McKinley Rates on Wool May Be Retained—Cause of Appearance of Greenbacks in Large Amounts.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The Senate finance committee held a brief session to-day, but no action was taken. The bond bill was discussed, but the tariff bill was not taken up. Senators White, Wolcott and Vest were not present, so that the free silver men and anti-silver men were a tie. It is understood that the intention of the silver men is to report either a free coinage substitute or amendment to the bond bill, probably an amendment.

After the regular meeting of the committee the Republican members held a conference in the committee room and the Democratic members held a conference in the committee room. Senator Jones of Nevada, went with the Democrats, as the conference was considered a silver conference more than anything else. The silver men unanimously decided to insist on an amendment in the nature of an entire substitute providing for free coinage of silver and the elimination of all authority for the issuance of bonds. Senator Jones, of Arkansas, was delegated to prepare a measure in accordance with these views, and the committee is expected to meet to-morrow, so that the bill can be completed. There is hope that the bill can receive final consideration at the hands of the committee in time to permit reporting to the Senate to-morrow, but this may not be accomplished. The absentees will be paired when a vote is reached in committee.

The Democratic and silver members considered their conference before 2 o'clock, but the Republican members did not convene until 4 o'clock. The conference was held in the committee room. Senator Jones of Nevada